REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116 EXPEDITED PROCEDURE

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of Confirm. No.: 7745

FUKUOKA et al, Atty. Ref.: 900-556

Serial No. 10/585,858 TC/A.U.: 1792

Filed: July 12, 2006 Examiner: Nathan K. Ford

For: SEMICONDUCTOR MANUFACTURING APPARATUS AND

SEMICONDUCTOR MANUFACTURING METHOD USING THE SAME

Commissioner for Patents November 3, 2010

P. O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

REQUEST FOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF PRIORITY CLAIM

Applicants note that the Office Action issued on August 26, 2010 does not indicate that the certified copy of the priority document has been received. Attached hereto is a copy of the Notice of Acceptance of Application dated March 16, 2007 indicating that a copy of the Priority document filed on July 12, 2007 has been received by the US Patent & Trademark Office.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner acknowledge receipt of the certified priority document and forward such indication to Applicants.

Respectfully submitted, NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: /JOHN C. EISENHART/

John C. Eisenhart Reg. No. 38,128

JCE:knh

901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor Arlington, VA 22203-1808 Telephone: (703) 816-4000

Facsimile: (703) 816-4100